

The St Michael Steiner School

Newsletter

MIDSUMMER EXTRA

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Website: www.stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk

Dates for Your Diary

JULY

Thur 4th - St John's and End of Term Festival

Fri 5th - TERM ENDS FOR ALL CLASSES 12:30

SEPTEMBER

Mon 9th & Tue 10th INSET

Weds 11th - TERM STARTS 10am

Sat 14th - Open Day 11am - 2pm

OCTOBER

Sat 19th - Open Day 11am - 2pm

Thu 24th - School ends for Half Term

Fri 25th INSET

NOVEMBER

Mon 4th - Back to School

Sat 23rd - Open Day 11am - 2pm

DECEMBER

Wed 18th - End of Term

Summer Fair!

Dear Parents,

We would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to all of you for helping us make our school's first ever Summer Fair a great success. From bunting to bbq, flyers to food, you stuck with us and helped us see it through. The great support from teachers and parent community helped us through many challenges.

We feel humbled by all the kind words we have received over the last few days. It has been an incredible experience which lent us much learning and joy. It was a privilege to work with all of you and to support the growth of our school. We will inform you of the proceeds in due course. In the meantime, we would like to invite you to talk through ideas and suggestions relating to the fair on Tuesday 2nd of July from 9.30 - 11.30 at the 'Pheasantry', Bushy park, TW11 0EQ. Parking available inside the park.

Mihiri, Jasmine, Viva & Indre.

(Your dishes, float tins and other items can be collected from the room opposite the upstairs staff room.)



What a wonderful day we had. Our school grounds were transformed into a carnival with brightly colored bunting fluttering from each corner of the lawn. Stalls offered games, cakes, tombola, bbq, summer café, fruit, clothes and even pony rides on the lawn -

something for everyone! Around 400 people came through the gates, many

old friends and acquaintances, as well as a number of local families enjoying a day out. Although rain was forecast, we even enjoyed some moments of sunshine and a fresh breeze kept the clouds moving.

A huge thank you to all those who gave their time, energy and considerable skills to help make the fair possible, and provided us with the opportunity to enjoy such a wonderful day together and celebrate our school in its new home in Hanworth Park. Thank you.

The teachers

News from the Early Years

Last week, our school hosted 16 early years practitioners, including Katie, from across Hounslow Borough who were attending a BTEC Level 3 Advanced Forest School Leaders award with a trainer from Bridgewater College in Somerset. The course was excellent with lots of great ideas for activities in our garden as well as foolproof fire lighting methods!



Great interest was shown in our school with several participants wanting to come and observe our early years practice in the future. Hounslow Borough have funded the training of Forest School leaders in over half of their primary schools, as well as providing equipment for them, showing the value they place upon the outdoor learning environment.

We are very glad for this opportunity to become more known in the local areas and to be part of Forest School movement. My training continues into the Autumn term when coursework and practice will be assessed.

This is the half-way stage of a wooden leaf-press. For results, we have to wait for two weeks.....



The Boiler House at the Goethanum

Birth to Three Conference at the Goethanum, 20-23rd June 2013

Three fortunate people from the UK, including Leigha and Jeannette, flew to Switzerland in time for the opening of the Third International Birth to Three Conference, where nineteen countries were represented. The keynote speaker was Dr. Michaela Glöckler who had recently inspired our whole early years team at the national early years conference at Kings Langley in April. It was hosted by the Medical, Education and Agricultural Sections jointly. We gathered much material which we look forward to sharing with you.

End of term

We look forward to seeing you all next week at our end of year St John's Festival. We have had a wonderful first year together, thanks to your children and yourselves and we would like to thank you for all your support and generosity over this time. May we take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful summer.

Leigha Hipkin, Katie Sharrock, Jeannette Cubequeray, Wendy Hewitt and Maria da Costa

Class 3 has been very fortunate this year as for the first time in our school's history we were able to use the school grounds for the children's curriculum. At this age, the children are learning about and discovering themselves in a new way. Their physical body is changing and their relationship to the world around them is different. They realise that they are different to one another and maybe that they actually can't run as fast as they thought they could, or jump as high. Reality starts to set in. For this reason, we teach the children about farming and working with the environment in a way that can nurture their experience.



We do a block on building because the children have to build themselves in a new way and by doing it externally, something starts to shift internally. We measure the world around us in inches, feet, and yards (using our body as a guide), and we weigh ourselves. It's a year that involves a huge amount of practical work and less time spent at their desks. And this is why we have been so fortunate in the new building as we have had the space and time to spread our wings. Plus we were extremely fortunate in going camping in the only warm weather week we've had so far this year. The children had an incredible time and did not want to go back home. They were able to help milk the cows, feed the chickens, collect the eggs, muck about with the pigs and

stroke the lambs. They came home exhausted and smiling. The pictures say it all.



Class Two



Class Two children have been busy this school year. As well as mastering the art of the times tables and how to keep the King's number cupboard very tidy they have enjoyed the many adventures of the King of Ireland's Son and admired his energy, persistence and optimism! They were awed by the selflessness and commitment of those rare people who have become Saints. More recently the children have identified with the cheekiness and cunning of the animals in the fables. But enough of stories, writing and pictures! The children have been busy exploring the local world of nature. They spent a wonderful day wading along the River Crane finding many little creatures that live there. They found a stickleback, a minnow, a fresh water shrimp, a newt, some may flies and a blood sucking little worm! Wonderful! They discovered also, that Wellington boots are not as waterproof as they should be as we squelched our way back to school. Great fun!

Since Easter the children have been going swimming once a week. This has been a huge success and all the children are now very confident in the water and are becoming excellent swimmers and they have fun!

Patricia Alexander



Class 4&5

Class 4&5, having completed their botanical study of the relationship between plants and insects, have moved to their final destination this school year, Ancient Greece. Class 4&5 are experiencing the myths of the Ancient Greeks; Creation myths, Jason and the Argonauts, The Iliad and The Odyssey. Since Easter they have intensified their preparations for the coming Olympics, to be held at Michael Hall on Saturday 29th of June. The class will travel to Michael Hall on Wednesday 26th of June, where they will camp and train with their peers from Steiner schools all over Britain. The class will be separated into 12 city groups, each led by an archon who will supervise their training and observe their efforts. On the day of the events, at 7:30 am, the games will commence with a ceremony, followed by competitions in the traditional events such as marathon, sprint, long and high jump, javelin and discus. The following is the verse spoken in unison by the hundreds of students gathered for the games as the Olympic torches are lit.

Wonders are many on the earth,
And the greatest of these is man.
There is nothing beyond his power.
His subtlety meeteth all chance,
All danger conquereth.
Power to him who upholdeth
his country's laws
And the justice of heaven.





Class 7



As the culmination of their Chemistry main lesson, Class 7 built a lime kiln out of willow wattle and daub. Coal and limestone were poured into this structure and a fire was built underneath. The coal and limestone burned at an extremely hot temperature for about ten hours and in the morning, after camping out to follow the process, we extracted the limestone, now changed into quicklime from the firing, added water to slake it, and used some to mortar bricks into place in the garden wall.

School Noticeboard

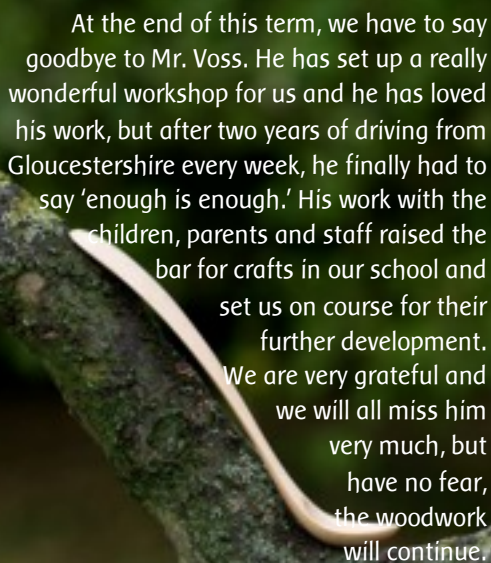
Dear Parents,

The last Saturday workday was great! Many of you came to help and we got an awful lot done. We have cleaned the Coal Shed, Cleaned some of the gutter on the roof, cut back the ivy in the walled garden and where it is needed (not all done, yet), temporarily removed one of the boys' urinals and reception door's lock and kitchen has been fixed. It is always heart-warming to receive your support, expertise and time. A BIG Thank You...

Looking forward; our next Parents Workday will be on 6th July (the day after we break up) on Saturday (START 10am). I would like to ask as many of you as possible to come as it would be lovely to clean, tidy, paint and put things in order in the school before many will go on holiday! Please, sign up with me, so I will know how many people are coming!

Thank you. Andrea

Goodbye



At the end of this term, we have to say goodbye to Mr. Voss. He has set up a really wonderful workshop for us and he has loved his work, but after two years of driving from Gloucestershire every week, he finally had to say 'enough is enough.' His work with the children, parents and staff raised the bar for crafts in our school and set us on course for their further development. We are very grateful and we will all miss him very much, but have no fear, the woodwork will continue.

School Development

Our first year at Hanworth Park has been both wonderful and challenging. Many new children have joined us since we arrived and still more will be here in September.

As the costs and work involved in paying for and maintaining a larger site and a two hundred-year-old building with so much outdoor space became apparent over the year, we have made adjustments to the budget and to the way we think about 'the school'. We are gradually beginning to realise just how many new opportunities have arisen, and will continue to arise, from being in such a place. The possibilities for curriculum development are very exciting, and we would love to be able to offer them to you free, but of course we can't; the school depends on your contributions for its survival and the development of the curriculum and facilities for all of our children. Please make sure that you pay any outstanding fees before the end of term and fees for next term promptly when you receive the invoice.

Please make fee payments by bank transfer (internet banking). Cash payments for fees will not be accepted.

Donations over and above what is invoiced will be gratefully received and can be gift-aided. This is of substantial value to the school at no extra cost to you. Please ask Andrea if you would like a form.

The Garden

I am planning to plant up the flower beds in front of the main house during the Summer and would like to ask if anyone has any of the herbaceous plants listed in their own gardens and could divide them and give me a piece. Alternatively, if you have seed (from the ones indicated) or bulbs, or if you see them in garden centres and nurseries and would like to donate one or two to the school, they would be very gratefully received.

Thank you

Amanda

I am looking for any or all of these:

- 5 - 7 Geranium 'Johnsons' Blue'
- 5 Achillea 'Gold Plate'
- 5 - 7 Blue or violet flag iris
- 5 - 7 Cream or pale yellow flag iris
- 4 Hollyhocks or Digitalis Purpurea(species)
- 1 Echinops Ritro
- 1 summer flowering (white) Jasmin
- 2 - 3 Peonies
- Any scented red tea rose
- 3 Veronica Spicata
- 2 Clematis Montana
- Forget-me-not (seed)
- Nigella (seed)
- Calendula (seed)
- Opium Poppies (seed)
- Cornflowers (seed)

Early Years End of Term Events

FAMILY FESTIVAL Thursday 4th July 8.30am – 9.45am

Family Crafts, Puppet Show, Big Children's Ceremony

This will be followed by a picnic, walk and play in Hanworth Park for our children and we invite Parents to rejoin us at mid-day.

ST. JOHNS FESTIVAL 12pm – 2.15pm

The whole School will gather for shared picnics on the lawn followed by our St. Johns Fire

CHILDREN'S FOREST HIKE AND PICNIC WIMBLEDON COMMON Friday 5th July 8.30am – 12.30pm

More details will be distributed on Monday 17th June.

Parent and Child Group News

Our last Wednesday morning and afternoon groups of the term will take place on 26th June. We warmly invite families from all our groups to join us on Thursday 27th June for a **St. Johns Festival** and a shared picnic. 1.30-3.00 pm. (Please book in as usual)

*We look forward to sharing these events with you,
Leigha, for the Early Years Team.*

*"In this the sun's high hour it rests
With you to understand these words of wisdom:
Surrendered to the beauty of the world,
Be stirred with new-enlivened feeling;
The human I can loose itself
And find itself within the cosmic I."*

(June 16-23) Calendar of the Soul—Rudolf Steiner

ST JOHN'S FESTIVAL AND END OF TERM IN THE LOWER SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL

This year we will be holding our St John's festival and end of term celebrations on the same day: Thursday 4th July.

There will be presentations and exhibitions of work, a picnic and, of course, a fire. Festivities will take place between approx. 10am and 2:30pm. A full programme of events will be sent out soon.

Education News Clippings

The Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship office sends out regular media clippings about education issues to anyone who is interested. Some of them are controversial and not all of them are complimentary about Steiner education, but we're all grown up aren't we? So if you are interested and not scared of a little criticism, email Jasmin at forjasmin@googlemail.com and she will forward them to you

Newsletter Contributions

The first newsletter of the year will be distributed on Friday 13th September. Deadline for contributions is 6pm Wednesday 11th September.

We are always keen to publish contributions from parents in the newsletter if you have something interesting/funny/controversial/moving/profound to share, however small, please send it to me by Email please: stella@stellabellottewill.com

Community Section

Please note that the school does not endorse or recommend, either in general or in particular, anything offered in the Community Pages and parents are advised to check the qualifications of practitioners or people offering services here



Vegfromhome

Local food for local people

Fruit and veg as it used to taste

Grown locally so it's fresher, and delivered to your door or via the school when you want it - and at fair prices!

We're based in Surbiton and grow all our produce within a mile of our home, including in our garden...

We deliver free of charge in the evening and at weekends

Jams, pickles and chutneys are also available

www.vegfromhome.com

Give us a try!

HANDMADE NATURAL SOAP

Lavender, Rose Geranium, Clary Sage and Lemongrass, Orange Geranium

Price: £3 each or two for £5

Please contact Brian Jacques (Class 9 Guardian)

brian.jacques@stmichaelsteinerschool.co.uk

BABYSITTING & CLEANING

My name is Naomi and I am 15 years old. I came to this school for eight years and my mum is Katie the kindergarten teacher. In July 2014 I am going on a school expedition to Botswana, we will be working on an environmental project and trekking in the Kalahari. It is a wonderful opportunity although I need to raise lots of money in order to go!

I am happy to babysit and clean for people who live within a reasonable distance of Kingston. Times are negotiable.

Please email or call me if you are interested

Email: sharrocknomes@btinternet.com

Mobile: 07927372920



RAW . ORGANIC . VEGAN . VEGETARIAN . DAIRY FREE . WHEAT FREE . GLUTEN FREE

Casama
ORGANIC
casama.co.uk



35g Bag of Raw Handmade Chocolate £3.00
(50p to school)

Raw Milky Chocolate Bunnies £1.20
(20p to school)

Casama Chilli

(our signature chocolate)

a Soft, Sweet feeling ending with a Chilli hit

Luxury Truffle

Smooth and Decadent

Raspberry Romance

Dark chocolate Splashed with Raspberries

Milky Chocolate

Dairy free Milky experience

Apricot Ginger Truffle

Dark chocolate coating a soft flavoursome centre

CaRAWmel Cup

Indulge yourself in sweetness



You deserve a Healthy treat

Please contact us through the facebook page or talk to Camilla Daniels (Hendrix's mum, kindergarten)

www.casama.co.uk

facebook.com/pages/Casama-Organic

Summer Childminding

With our long holidays this year, I gather some of you will need childcare. I can offer you childcare at very reasonable rates for the dates below.

You would drop your children to me in Wimbledon Park (or by arrangement I could collect) at which ever time you need, and I will take care of them for you. I would take them swimming, to parks, ice skating, on picnics, fruit picking etc Also bake and cook with them. If they want a restful day we can play at my house or just go to the library and get a load of books and read all day! They would also have Phoebe and Joseph to keep them company.

Rates are £8 per hour for up to two children. That's only £4 per child per hour. The children don't need to be siblings either! We would have the day(s) planned and any extra costs eg admission fees would be sorted out prior to the excursion. I'm also available for babysitting.

If you are interested please don't hesitate to contact me on [07789 790 607](tel:07789790607) or email me at tsdoowharas@googlemail.com

I look forward to hearing from you.
Sarah Woods

Dates available are: 15,16,17,18,24,25,30,31 July, 1,2,3,19,20,21,22 August 2,3,4,5,6 September

Community Section

Dear Families,

I am a Steiner graduate who has been very active in the Steiner Birth-to-Three movement in the United States, and am now working on my dissertation for an MA in Early Childhood Studies at Roehampton University in SW London.

I am looking for families with 2- or 3-year-olds who will allow me to do a day of observation in their homes for my dissertation, the subject of which is "**Pitching In: Toddlers Helping in Adult Activities.**" I would come to your house for a short social visit, then do my observation a couple days later, and finish with a short interview that can be done on the day. All names and identifying features will be changed to protect confidentiality.

For more info please contact me at faith@joyfultoddlers.com.

You can also learn more about me on my website, <http://joyfultoddlers.com>. Thank you so much for your consideration; your participation makes this possible.

Sincerely,
Faith Collins